

**Amendments to the Specification:**

At page 1, on the line between the title and "Background of the Invention"  
, insert the following claim of priority:

- - This application is a continuation application of copending U.S.  
Application Serial No. 09/753,858, filed on January 03, 2001. - -.

At page 3, line 21, please enter the following:

- - Brief Description Of The Drawings

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be  
more fully disclosed in, or rendered obvious by, the following detailed description  
of the preferred embodiments of the invention, which are to be considered  
together with the accompanying drawings wherein like numbers refer to like parts  
and further wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a heat pipe formed in accordance with the  
present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a pumped-loop system formed in  
accordance with the present invention. - -.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph starting at line 23 and ending on  
page 4 on line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is directed to an improvement in vessels 4  
composed of magnesium and substantially free of aluminum and zinc, these  
vessels 4 having a hollow interior cavity 6 containing a working fluid 8. The

stable protective layer 10 will be either an oxide or nitride layer depending on the working fluid 8. For instance, if ammonia is chosen as the working fluid 8, a stable nitride would be formed; in contrast, if water is used as the working fluid 8, a stable oxide would be formed. The preferred vessel 4 for purposes of the present invention is a heat pipe 14, although it is anticipated that other suitable vessels would benefit from the purposes of the present invention as well. Suitable vessels include heat pipe 14 and/or a pumped-loop system 17 (Figs. 1 and 2).

On page 4, please replace the paragraph starting on line 20 and ending on page 5 on line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In the testing of the present invention, there have been more than 30 on/off thermal cycles where a Mg/water heat pipe 14 was heated to between 100 to 120°C, and then cooled to room temperature. Note that 1 to 2 of those cycles are normally enough to cause failure in an aluminum/water heat pipe 14. It has been found that there is no degradation in magnesium heat pipes 14. In further testing with more than 50 thermal cycles of a magnesium heat pipe 14 with 0.6 wt % zirconium, no degradation or failure has been observed. Also note that the temperature for fluids within the vessel range from about room temperature (for ammonia) to up to 100°C (for water).